



## Topic: Cancer and Cancer Screening

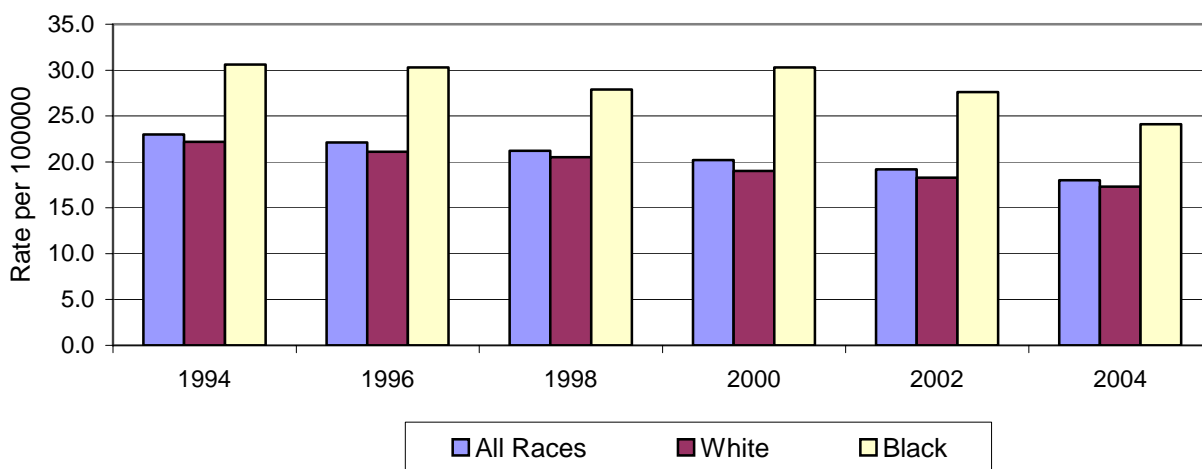
### 15. Colorectal Cancer Deaths

Even though colorectal cancer mortality rates for Michigan men and women have decreased over the past few years, colorectal cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer-related death in Michigan for men and women combined, with only lung cancer taking the lives of more men and women.

#### *How are we doing?*

During 2004, 1,872 Michigan men and women died from colorectal cancer. Death rates associated with colorectal cancer have decreased in Michigan, falling from 2.7 deaths per 10,000 men and women in the late 1980s to 1.8 deaths per 10,000 men and women in 2004.

**Colon and Rectal Cancer Death Rate  
By Race in Michigan, 1994-2004**



These rates are similar to the national rates. Based on 2004 mortality data, Blacks are approximately 40% more likely than Whites to die from colorectal cancer.

In 2006, the American Cancer Society estimates that 4,930 Michigan men and women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 1,830 men and women within the state will die from the disease. Michigan is currently headed in the right direction. Screening rates are increasing and death rates have decreased over the past ten years.

#### *How Does Michigan compare with the U.S.?*

Michigan ranks 31<sup>st</sup> among all states in colorectal cancer mortality.

#### *How are different populations affected?*

While continuing to decline, Blacks still have higher colorectal cancer incidence and mortality rates than Whites and other racial groups.



### ***What is the Department of Community Health doing to improve this indicator?***

The MDCH has developed and sponsored many projects to increase the use of colorectal cancer screening services, and specifically, projects targeting communities within high colorectal cancer mortality counties, as well as registered primary care physicians throughout the state. To increase awareness of colorectal cancer and access to screening procedures, the Department has conducted community-based focus groups related to colorectal cancer screening barriers that are used to develop interventions within target communities. The Department has also updated the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices survey (KAP) of Michigan registered primary care physicians. The KAP survey will assess the current practices of Michigan's primary care physicians in colorectal cancer screening and how these practices compare with the approved screening guidelines. Based on survey findings, interventions will be planned.